

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: Please cancel all pending claims and replace with the claims listed below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions:

Listing of Claims:

I claim:

1. A method for graphically representing information using one or more software routines that include an electronic toolbox and are capable of powering a displaying the electronic structure created using the software routines, said method comprising:
 - Selecting one or more items from an electronic toolbox provided in a software routine or program, wherein each item is selected to symbolize a topic or issue associated with a specific subject;
 - Identifying at least one connection from the electronic toolbox that represents a logical, intuitive or metamorphical connection between the selected items;
 - connecting one or more items with a connector until each selected item is connected to at least one other selected item;
 - displaying the electronic structure to at least one viewer;
 - recording any communications by the viewer in response to the viewing the electronic structure; and
 - storing one or more explanations of any symbolic representations reflected each item and connection included within the electronic structure.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - providing a viewer with one or more electronically stored explanations and an electronic copy of the structure;
 - permitting the viewer to modify the electronic structure by selecting one or more additional items from the electronic toolbox that represent information about the subject as communicated by the viewer; and
 - responsive to the addition of an item to the strcuturet, adding a connector that represents a connection between the additional item and the structure.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting flat images such as photographs or drawings.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting a 3-dimensional shape.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of connecting one or more items includes connecting a flat image and a selected 3-dimensional shape such that the image becomes the surface of the selected shape.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any symbolic analysis of the representations.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any interpretations of the representations.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any oral descriptions in one or more electronic files that can be associated with the electronic structure.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any written descriptions in one or more electronic files that can be associated with the electronic structure.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any non-verbal descriptions in one or more electronic video files that can be associated with the electronic structure.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any explanations and the electronic structure being explained together on a network server.
12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing an index to any electronic structures that are stored on the network server.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing an index includes providing a list of electronic structures by the subject of the electronic structures.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting one or more electronic drawing tools that can be used to draw the item.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more explanations includes storing a description of the intended meaning of the items in the structure at the time it was being assembled.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assembling includes assembling structures having more than five dimensions.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assembling includes using art materials to assemble the structure such as pens, paints, photographs, and drawings.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting one or more items with a logical connection includes using hierarchical relations between the items.
19. The method of claim 2, wherein the viewer is more than one person.

92 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
94 recording one more explanations of the electronic structure by other individuals that have
viewed the electronic structure;

96 storing the explanations on an electronic media; and

98 logically linking the stored explanation with the electronic structure.

100 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of logically linking the stored explanation with the
102 electronic structure includes the step of creating an electronic link, such as a hyperlink, to
both the explanation and a stored copy of the electronic structure.

104 22. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of permitting modification of the
106 electronic structure by the viewer in order to apply the symbolic ideas represented by
electronic structure to a different subject.

108 23. A software system for facilitating the creation of one or more symbolic structures, said
comprising:

110 a processor for processing one or more software routines;

112 an electronic display connected to said processor for displaying output as requested by
114 the software routines;

116 electronic memory connected to said processor for storing a collection of electronic
118 media that can be used to represent information concerning a given subject; and

logically connected to said electronic memory and the processor, a software routine
120 capable of providing:

122 an electronic toolbox;

124 an n-dimensional electronic palette for placing one or more items from the
electronic toolbox into n-dimensional space; and

126 a dimensional routine, wherein such dimensional routine enables a user to view
128 and edit any structures using the electronic toolbox by changing at least one-dimension
of the n-dimensional palette.

130 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine is capable of providing an electronic
132 toolbox that includes links to one or more media items stored in electronic memory.

134 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine is capable of providing an electronic
toolbox that includes one or more objects that visually represent logical relations.

136 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the electronic memory is capable of storing one or more
138 structures created on the electronic palette using the electronic toolbox.

- 140 27. The system of claim 23, wherein the electronic memory includes one or more electronic
media that have been added by a user.
- 142 28. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine includes a dimensional routine that can
change the dimension of time.
- 144 29. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine includes a dimensional routine that can
146 change or more dimensions of three-dimensional space.
- 148 30. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine further includes a software routine that
is capable of putting one or more items of electronic media into motion within the electronic
150 palette.
- 152 31. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine further includes a software routine that
is capable of making one or more items of electronic media flash within the electronic
154 palette.